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United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-fourth session (26 February-1 March 2013)

Economic and Social Council

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling recent resolutions[1] of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental importance of official statistics for the national and global development agenda,

Bearing in mind the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency,

Bearing in mind also that the essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this context that professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial,

Stressing that, in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems,

Endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics set out below, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994[2] and reaffirmed in 2013, and recommends them further to the General Assembly for endorsement.

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical

[1] These include General Assembly resolution 64/267 on "World Statistics Day", and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity and 2005/13 on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

[2] For the original preamble used on the occasion of the initial adoption of the Principles in 1994, see the report on the Statistical Commission on its special session (E/1994/29), chapter V, available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/94report.pdf. More information on the Fundamental Principles and their history is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx.

utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

Principle 2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Principle 3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

Principle 4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

Principle 5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

Principle 6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Principle 7. The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

Principle 8. Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

Principle 9. The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

Principle 10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session;

(b) Decides that the forty-fifth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 4 to 7 March 2014;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

3. Programme review: topic to be determined.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Human settlements statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(c) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Statistics on drugs and drug use;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(e) Washington Group on Disability Measurement;

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group

(f) Migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Culture statistics.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Report of the Global Steering Committee

Report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income

(c) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

(e) Distributive trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) International trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Statistics of international trade in services;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Information and communications technology statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development

(i) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

(j) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(k) Ottawa Group on Price Indices;

Documentation

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices

(l) Short-term economic indicators.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environmental-economic accounting.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(c) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;

Documentation

Report of the Bureau

(f) Principles governing international statistical activities;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(g) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

(h) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) Statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on Developing a Statistical-Spatial Framework in National Statistical Systems

(j) Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(k) World Statistics Day;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(l) Big data and modernization of statistical systems;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(m) Broader measures of progress.

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

8. Programme questions (Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

44/101
Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the programme review on developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems, expressed its appreciation to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for its excellent work, and noted with appreciation the contribution of the 52 countries that had responded to the review questionnaire;

(b) Recognized the importance of the integration of geospatial information and statistics in supporting social, economic and environmental policy decision-making, including at the subnational level;

(c) Strongly supported the linking of social, economic and environmental data to time and location attributes in order to enrich and maximize the potential of statistical information, while noting the need to provide technical assistance to countries, developing countries in particular, in the early stages of the integration process;

(d) Welcomed the proposal to organize an international conference as a way of reaching out and developing best practices, bringing together both statistical and geospatial professional communities, while bearing in mind the critical link with the informatics community, especially in the context of the current discussion on big data;

(e) Also welcomed the proposal to develop an international statistical geospatial framework, taking into account existing national and international efforts;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to establish an expert group composed of representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities to carry out work on developing a statistical-spatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, addressing various technical

issues (for example, the choice of basic units), as well as institutional and information policy issues, especially those related to confidentiality, noted the expression of those interested in participating in the expert group, and thanked the Australian Central Bureau for offering to provide continued leadership;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to report back to the Commission in due course.

44/102
Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Chair group for its work on revising the preamble of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and for conducting a survey on their implementation;

(b) Adopted the revised preamble of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as contained in the background document and as orally amended;

(c) Reiterated the importance of the Fundamental Principles being widely known and respected among users and producers of official statistics, and in particular at the political level, both nationally and globally, and therefore decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly the endorsement of the Principles, together with the newly revised preamble;

(d) Stressed the need to focus now on implementation, and encouraged the Friends of the Chair group to conclude its work by formulating, with the assistance of the secretariat of the United Nations Statistics Division, guidelines on how to ensure the full independence of national statistical systems and on how to strengthen implementation, based on good practices developed at the national and regional levels;

(e) Encouraged in this context the Friends of the Chair group to explore ways to effectively address perceived violations of the Fundamental Principles and to reflect upon how the applicability of the Principles could be extended beyond the realm of official statistics, specifically to the private sector.

44/103
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,[3] and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Working Group over the past year;

(b) Commended the progress on making the *System of National Accounts, 2008*[4] (2008 SNA) available in the official languages of the United Nations, and

[3] E/CN.3/2013/4.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.

expressed its appreciation to the institutions and countries involved in the translation process;

(c) Endorsed the programme of work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, welcomed that priority will be given to addressing issues emerging from the 2008 SNA implementation, and requested the Working Group to report on the outcomes to the Commission in due course;

(d) Expressed appreciation for the activities undertaken by international organizations, regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries providing bilateral technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics;

(e) Appreciated the progress regarding and completion of a number of manuals, handbooks and guidelines that facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, and urged the Working Group to expedite the development of the handbooks and guidelines;

(f) Noted the outcome of the surveys on plans by countries for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, and expressed concern that, despite progress in a number of countries, many countries are still a long way from adjusting their collections of supporting statistics for implementing the SNA;

(g) Urged countries to develop strategic planning frameworks, taking into account their priorities for the national work programme for national accounts and supporting statistics to support evidence-based policymaking and to allocate sufficient resources for the statistical programme of work on the implementation of national accounts and supporting statistics;

(h) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Working Group, supporting countries and other regional organizations, to scale up coordination, advocacy and resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics at the national level, where required, by promoting stronger commitment by national Governments to advancing the work programme for national accounts and supporting statistics;

(i) Requested countries to support the United Nations Statistics Division in this task, taking into account, inter alia, coordination, political engagement and resources at the national level, lessons learned from other international initiatives, such as the International Comparison Programme and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, the sharing of national experiences, engagement of the national statistical system, including central banks and other ministries, as well as the data and metadata reporting mechanisms to regional and international organizations, common existing software and other tools for the compilation of national accounts and the broader measures of progress presently considered by countries;

(j) Requested the Working Group to report to the Commission in 2014 on the progress made in scaling up coordination, advocacy and funding for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics;

(k) Recognized that the compilation of gross domestic product is a fundamental statistical reporting requirement for countries and an essential element in the formulation of the statistical response to the work programme on the broader

measures of progress, as articulated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);[5]

(l) Requested the Working Group and the regional commissions to ensure that the collection, validation and dissemination of the data collected from countries are harmonized and that unnecessary duplication is avoided.

44/104
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting in delivering a significant work programme in accordance with the agreed project management framework;

(b) Adopted the implementation strategy for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework recommending a flexible and modular approach, and urged the Committee of Experts to agree on a medium-term programme of work for the implementation of SEEA, including advancing the issues on the SEEA Central Framework research agenda and the development of a core set of tables and accounts, in order to develop coordination mechanisms among the relevant international and regional agencies for effective management of the programme and to actively seek funding to support the implementation activities;

(c) Requested the Committee of Experts to develop diagnostic tools, compilation guidelines and training materials to support the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework and strengthen supporting statistics in collaboration with other international and regional agencies;

(d) Stressed the urgency to publish the SEEA Central Framework and to translate it into the official languages of the United Nations;

(e) Welcomed the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting as an important first step in the development of a statistical framework for ecosystem accounting, and encouraged its use by international and regional agencies and countries wishing to test and experiment in this new area of statistics;

(f) Recognized the policy demand for information on ecosystem accounting, and requested the Committee of Experts to set priorities and develop a medium-term programme of work with timelines and deliverables as well as a proper mechanism to address these issues, considering the multidisciplinary nature of the topic;

(g) Welcomed the SEEA Applications and Extensions as a useful contribution to illustrating possible applications of the SEEA Central Framework, and agreed with its process of finalization;

(h) Recognized SEEA as a useful measurement framework to inform several policy frameworks, including but not limited to the green economy and green growth, sustainable development and various international initiatives, in the follow-up to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the formulation of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;

[5] General Assembly resolution 66/288.

(i) Noted that, notwithstanding the importance of the measurement of sustainability through national accounts, environmental statistics and economic environmental accounting, there is a need to complement these measures with the measurement of labour markets, which are currently not sufficiently developed in many developing countries;

(j) Welcomed progress made in the drafting of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-Energy) and, recognizing the advanced stage of the draft and the policy demand, agreed with the suggested process to take into account the contributions of the members of the different groups (London Group on Environmental Accounting, Oslo Group on Energy Statistics and Eurostat) and finalize SEEA-Energy for adoption by the Bureau of the Commission in between sessions;

(k) Noted with appreciation the progress of work on the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water.

44/105
Environment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work done by the United Nations Statistical Division, and recognized the significant contribution of the Expert Group on the Revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics as well as that of participating countries and organizations, in the revision and consultation process;

(b) Commended the timeliness of the revised Framework with regard to the important role of high-quality environment statistics in analysis and informed policymaking and decision-making in support of sustainable development;

(c) Endorsed the revised Framework as the framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries, and recognized it as a useful tool in the context of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;

(d) Endorsed the action plan and the establishment of an Expert Group on Environment Statistics, noted the interest of several countries to participate in the Expert Group, and requested that the terms of reference of the Expert Group be developed, including a timetable and reporting mechanism;

(e) Stressed the importance of strong coordination between the implementation of the revised Framework and that of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework;

(f) Emphasized the need for supporting the revised Framework with detailed methodological guidance and training material that build upon existing methodological resources, where available, and that are coordinated with ongoing methodological work in related fields of statistics;

(g) Recognized the urgency to publish the revised Framework in the official languages of the United Nations;

(h) Stressed the need of countries at the early stages of the development of their environment statistics programmes for increased technical assistance and capacity-building, and called on international organizations for support in that regard.

44/106
International trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed and appreciated the report on international trade statistics;[6]

(b) Recognized the need for an overarching measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization, taking into account the existing frameworks and guidelines, notably the System of National Accounts, Balance of Payments, and the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics, as well as the research and studies done by Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and various working groups;

(c) Also recognized the need for an appropriate mechanism for coordination of the work on international trade and economic globalization, ensuring that the functions of the existing expert groups, working groups and task forces are fully accounted for at the international and regional levels;

(d) Agreed to the creation of a "friends of the chair" group tasked with preparing a concept paper on the scope and content of the framework, and on the appropriate mechanism for coordination of the work in this area, and in this connection noted that a number of countries and international organizations had expressed their interest in participating in the group;

(e) Requested that a clear timetable and terms of reference be prepared for the work of the "friends of the chair" group as soon as possible;

(f) Requested that the concept paper of the "friends of the chair" group take into account the different levels of statistical sophistication and of available resources of national statistical systems and make provisions for corresponding milestones for the implementation of envisioned recommendations;

(g) Requested that the "friends of the chair" group pay special attention to the topics of confidentiality of microlevel data, the legal aspects of data collection and sharing, and the interconnectedness of cross-border relations, in trade and related financial aspects.

44/107
Agricultural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated the Global Steering Committee on its report[7] and on the excellent work done since its establishment in December 2011;

[6] E/CN.3/2013/7.
[7] E/CN.3/2013/8.

(b) Took note with appreciation of the significant progress made in the implementation of all areas of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, including the development of the governance mechanisms at the global and regional levels and the mobilization of the required resources;

(c) Appreciated the efforts to establish collaboration and partnerships for better coordination of capacity-building efforts and research in agricultural statistics, and the work that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and many partners are undertaking in developing cost-effective methodologies and tools;

(d) Encouraged the Global Steering Committee to further streamline the research agenda and capacity-building activities, with an initial focus on improving methodologies for the measurement of crop production, areas and yields for food security monitoring;

(e) Encouraged the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all participating partners to accelerate the implementation of the Global Strategy, recognizing the significant impact that implementation will have on the capacity of countries to produce reliable and timely agricultural statistics;

(f) Highlighted the important role that regional participating partners play in the implementation of the Global Strategy, by facilitating the exchange of good practices, encouraging South-South cooperation and allowing better tailored technical assistance and training;

(g) Requested countries, resource partners and other donors to further support the implementation of the Global Strategy and the mobilization of resources required for filling the funding gaps;

(h) Took note of the preparations for the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics to be held in Brazil in October 2013;

(i) Endorsed the report of the Global Steering Committee, the proposed priorities and way forward.

44/108
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme[8] and the progress in the implementation of the 2011 round of the Programme;

(b) Acknowledged that the Programme has tremendous implications for countries, in particular in terms of developing their capacity to collect and compute price data and to compile national accounts;

(c) Expressed its appreciation to all the partners who are supporting the Programme, in particular the bilateral donors, the Executive Board, the Global Office at the World Bank and the Technical Advisory Group, as well as the regional

[8] E/CN.3/2013/9.

coordinating agencies, for providing technical assistance and financial support to the countries;

(d) Appealed to participants to strictly adhere to data submission timetables so that the 2011 round can proceed according to the planned timeline and the final results can be released in December 2013, without sacrificing data quality;

(e) Noted the appeal of the countries of the Caribbean Community for additional support to assist them in meeting the national accounts requirement of the Programme and thereby meet the deadline for reporting to the Global Office;

(f) Reiterated the criticality of associating metadata with relevant statistics, and urged countries participating in the Programme to submit all required price and national accounts metadata in a timely manner;

(g) Expressed its appreciation of the efforts being made to ensure that the results of the 2005 round of the Programme are revised to reflect revisions of the gross domestic product expenditure data set of countries;

(h) Appreciated the increased focus on transparency in the methods and processes of the Programme, welcomed the upcoming release of the book entitled *Measuring the Real Size of the World Economy*, and urged the World Bank and regional coordinating agencies to step up their efforts to disseminate and increase the usefulness of the results of the 2011 round;

(i) Welcomed the adoption of the 2011 International Comparison Programme Data Access Policy to increase the usefulness of the Programme's data to the user community;

(j) Urged the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme to propose a practical approach to the evaluation of the 2011 round, with the goal of building on the capacity and the momentum gained during the past two rounds of the Programme, for consideration at the forty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission to be held in 2014.

44/109
Gender statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics[9] and commended the work done by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics during 2012;

(b) Expressed its appreciation of the development of standards, methodological guidelines and training manuals on gender statistics, in particular on time use and on violence against women;

(c) Welcomed the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative, jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, emphasized the need to ensure that the work is carried out in a timely manner and is in line with the Global Gender Statistics Programme, and noted that other international

[9] E/CN.3/2013/10.

organizations engaged in this work stand ready to support these activities in line with their mandates and objectives;

(d) Supported the proposed next steps under the Global Gender Statistics Programme to provide training and assistance to strengthen the capacity of countries to produce and disseminate gender statistics and to use gender statistics for policymaking;

(e) Agreed on the use of the minimum set of gender indicators, developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics, requested further clarification on the protocols of data collection from countries as well as detailed metadata, and requested further consideration of indicators on the valuation of unpaid work and on migrants;

(f) Encouraged greater integration of gender statistics into other areas of official statistics, such as sustainable development indicators;

(g) Recognized that additional resources are needed to further develop and implement national work programmes on gender statistics, and requested the donor community to devote adequate resources to this area;

(h) Expressed its appreciation of the work of the Friends of the Chair on indicators of violence against women, noted that the group had successfully completed its tasks and could therefore be terminated, and noted in this context the need to take cultural specificities of countries into account;

(i) Welcomed the proposal of Mexico to host the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics in 2014, together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Statistical Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

44/110
Crime statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report,[10] and expressed its appreciation to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for preparing the elaborate road map for improving crime statistics;

(b) Supported the proposed activities presented in the road map and suggested that the ambitious list of activities be further prioritized and a more detailed timetable be developed;

(c) Welcomed the suggestion to establish a group of experts from both the statistical and criminal justice fields to monitor the implementation of the road map, for improving crime statistics within the framework of the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(d) Stressed the importance of coordination at the national level, and invited national statistical authorities to initiate and establish close cooperation with

[10] E/CN.3/2013/11.

criminal justice system institutions at the national level, thus establishing a national framework for collecting crime and criminal justice statistics;

(e) Approved the plan to finalize by 2015 an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes, and noted that such a classification will serve as a powerful methodological tool for harmonization and for improving international and regional comparability;

(f) Requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical support to countries in improving crime and criminal justice statistics, as necessary and subject to the availability of resources;

(g) Welcomed the proposal by, and expressed its appreciation to, Italy for considering hosting the Second International Conference on Crime Statistics in 2014;

(h) Requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session in 2015 on the progress made in the implementation of the road map.

44/111
Health statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics,[11] and acknowledged the important work done by the World Health Organization in the development of health statistics;

(b) Expressed concern about the inadequate consultation and coordination between the World Health Organization and the international statistical community in the area of health statistics, and called for effective cooperation among the World Health Organization and relevant inter-agency working groups and international agencies;

(c) Called for effective cooperation and collaboration among the World Health Organization, national statistical offices and line ministries involved in the production of health statistics;

(d) Expressed deep concern that the development of a model disability survey by the World Health Organization did not take into account the significant work already carried out by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and urged close collaboration in developing the survey to ensure that the data items proposed to be collected by the World Health Organization are consistent with those developed by the Washington Group, unless there is a compelling case to do otherwise, thereby avoiding confusion and duplication of efforts;

(e) Expressed concern that the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases might be too complex and challenging for countries to implement, and requested the World Health Organization to give sufficient time to the revision process and to subject the revised classification to field testing and assessment before adoption;

[11] E/CN.3/2013/12.

(f) Acknowledged that civil registration and vital statistics are an important element of national statistical systems, noted the lack of a global coordination mechanism in this area, and called upon the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions and relevant regional and international organizations to strengthen national capacity for enhancing civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(g) Called attention to the need to sustain data collection efforts in the area of health statistics, including through the Demographic and Health Survey and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, recognized in particular the importance of health statistics in the context of monitoring progress in relevant Millennium Development Goals, and encouraged countries to scale up their data collection efforts for the final Millennium Development Goals assessment in 2015;

(h) Acknowledged the challenges of using administrative data from the health sector and the other fields related to health, such as nutrition and social protection, for the production of health statistics, and called upon relevant international and regional organizations to help strengthen national capacity with a view to improving the collection and analysis of health statistics at the national level.

44/112
Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Reiterated the need for effective coordination of statistical work among United Nations system agencies, and international agencies in general;

(b) Took note of the work done by the Friends of the Chair and agreed with the proposed work programme, in particular with the focus on developing a quality framework;

(c) Welcomed the offers by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and United Nations system agencies to support the work of the Friends of the Chair.

44/113
Regional statistical development in Africa

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa,[12] and thanked the Commission for the preparation of the report;

(b) Extended its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Africa for the exhibition set up for the session;

(c) Noted the progress made by African countries with the help of pan-African organizations (the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union

[12] E/CN.3/2013/14.

Commission and the African Development Bank) and other partners to accelerate the strengthening of statistics in support of their development efforts;

(d) Called upon African countries and development partners to give high priority to statistics in their development programmes and to support the mainstreaming of statistics in country development processes, including growth and poverty reduction strategies;

(e) Called upon all African countries to improve the implementation of their national strategies for the development of statistics, and called upon on African Governments and development partners to scale up their assistance in providing the needed technical and financial support for the implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics;

(f) Called upon development partners to support African countries through coordination mechanisms put in place by African stakeholders, namely the Statistical Commission for Africa, the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;

(g) Encouraged the Bureau and secretariat of the Commission to reflect upon the objective, format, content and placement in the agenda of future reports on regional statistical development;

(h) Welcomed and supported the African Union decision to create the African Institute of Statistics to be located in Tunis.

44/114
Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission: response to Rio+20 mandate for broader measures of progress

The Statistical Commission:

(a) In its capacity as the designated "intergovernmental focal point for the elaboration and the review of the indicators used by the United Nations system"[13] and, in response to the specific mandate of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), decided to launch a work programme to develop broader measures of progress;

(b) Recognized the importance of developing adequate measures to support the evolving debate on sustainable development policy at both the national and international levels, and noted in this context that significant work has already been done in past years and is currently being carried out by the Commission (for example, the Millennium Development Goals, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting) as well as by national, regional and international organizations;

[13] See General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

(c) Noted that, even if no single measure captures today's complex development notion and even if it will take time to develop a set of technically solid and globally agreed measures of progress, there is a need to start the work as soon as possible on defining such a set;

(d) Stressed that "broader measures of progress" have to be part of a larger information infrastructure/architecture in order to support development policy at all levels and need therefore to be linked to evolving sustainable development goals and any framework that will support the post-2015 development agenda;

(e) Insisted that the statistical community needs to be adequately involved in the discussion on new development frameworks, in order to advise early on any formulation of targets and indicators;

(f) Expressed concern that the statistical capacity of many countries, especially, but not exclusively, developing countries, is limited and that significant investments for statistical capacity over the coming years will be necessary so that statistics for sustainable development are themselves sustainable;

(g) Supported the formation of a Friends of the Chair group to build a work programme to develop broader measures of progress based on a stocktaking exercise of current national, regional and international practices in this field, and to conduct a technical review of these existing efforts with a view to identifying good/best practices and to facilitating the sharing of knowledge, especially for the benefit of developing countries; requested the Friends of the Chair group to closely monitor the ongoing debate on development frameworks and to keep the Bureau of the Statistical Commission informed, undertaking an active dialogue with United Nations bodies and the policy sphere in order to ensure that a robust statistical measurement approach is incorporated from the outset in preparations for the post-2015 development agenda; requested the secretariat to assist the Commission in its work by organizing meetings of the Friends of the Chair group and preparing relevant materials, including an inventory of existing practices, and requested the Friends of the Chair group to report on the preliminary results of its work to the Commission at its next session in order to receive guidance for subsequent work.

44/115
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-agency Affairs concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the United Nations Statistics Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the conference room paper[14] containing the draft programme of work for the Division for the biennium 2014-2015. It also approved the adjustments to the list of outputs for the current 2012-2013 programme, contained in the annex of the conference room paper, and authorized the Bureau to approve further adjustments, should they become necessary in the course of 2013.

[14] See E/CN.3/2013/CRP.1.

44/116
Information items

The Commission took note of the following reports:

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics[15]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on education statistics[16]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on recent developments in labour statistics and preparations for the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisics[17]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers[18]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics[19]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources[20]

Report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals[21]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics[23]

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building[24]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century[25]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics[26]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the Report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics[27]

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[15] E/CN.3/2013/15.
[16] E/CN.3/2013/16.
[17] E/CN.3/2013/17.
[18] E/CN.3/2013/18.
[19] E/CN.3/2013/19.
[20] E/CN.3/2013/20.
[21] E/CN.3/2013/21.
[22] E/CN.3/2013/22.
[23] E/CN.3/2013/23.
[24] E/CN.3/2013/24.
[25] E/CN.3/2013/25.
[26] E/CN.3/2013/26.

Report of the Secretary-General on international statistical classifications[28]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[29]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors[30]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[31]

[27] E/CN.3/2013/27.
[28] E/CN.3/2013/28.
[29] E/CN.3/2013/29.
[30] E/CN.3/2013/30.
[31] E/CN.3/2013/31.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 26 February and 1 March 2013. At its 1st meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems (E/CN.3/2013/2) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of Australia.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 26 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Germany, Cuba, China, Norway and the United States of America, as well as by the observers for South Africa, Samoa, Finland, Mexico, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saint Lucia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, France, Portugal, Nepal, Brazil, India, Austria, Afghanistan, the Bahamas, the Philippines and Slovenia.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and by the representatives of the European Union, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/101).

B. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 26 February and 1 March 2013. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/3), and heard an introductory statement by the representative of the United States of America.

7. At the 2nd meeting, on 26 February, statements were made by the representatives of China, the Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Cuba, Colombia, Italy, Bulgaria, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, Japan, Barbados and Australia, as well as by the observers for Portugal, the Philippines, South Africa, the Netherlands, Denmark,

Belize, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh, Turkey, Egypt, Austria, Chile, Peru, Canada, Malaysia and Mexico.

8. At the same meeting, statements were also were also made by the representatives of the European Union, the International Statistical Institute, the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Monetary Fund.

9. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

10. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/102).

C. National accounts

11. The Commission considered item 3 (c) on its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings, on 26 and 27 February, and on 1 March 2013. At its 2nd meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2013/4).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 26 February, the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made an introductory statement.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Oman, the Russian Federation, Morocco, the United States of America, Mongolia, Japan and Cameroon, as well as by the observers for Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Tonga and the Republic of Korea.

14. At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the observers for Malaysia, South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand, Timor-Leste, Peru, Jamaica, France, Poland, the Philippines, Canada, Nigeria, Qatar, Viet Nam, Egypt and Côte d'Ivoire.

15. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were by the representatives of the European Union, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Caribbean Community.

16. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

17. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/103).

D. Environmental-economic accounting

18. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 1 March 2013. At its 3rd meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2013/5).

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the representative of Australia made an introductory statement.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Botswana, Germany, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Colombia, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the observers for Bangladesh, the Netherlands, France, the Philippines, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, India, Canada and Afghanistan.

21. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and by the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank.

22. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

23. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/104).

E. Environment statistics

24. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 1 March 2013. At its 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/6).

25. At the 3rd meeting, the Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Czech Republic, Botswana, the Dominican Republic, Australia, Mongolia, Morocco, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, the United States of America and Norway, as well as by the observers for Malaysia, the Philippines, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Kazakhstan, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Qatar, Jamaica, New Zealand, Paraguay, South Africa, the Bahamas, Brazil, Ecuador, Tunisia and Turkey.

27. At the 4th meeting, also on 27 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

28. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/105).

F. International trade statistics

30. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 1 March 2013. At its 4th meeting, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international trade statistics (E/CN.3/2013/7) and heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division.

31. At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Oman, the Dominican Republic, China and Australia, as well as by the observers for Egypt, Denmark, Malaysia, Canada, Qatar, Cape Verde, France, Tonga (on behalf of Pacific Island countries), the Netherlands, Nigeria, Sweden, the Philippines, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey.

32. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

33. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/106).

G. Agricultural statistics

34. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 1 March 2013. At its 4th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Steering Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/8) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

35. At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the representatives Cameroon, Japan, the United States of America, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mongolia, the Dominican Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the observers for Lesotho, Bangladesh, France, the Sudan, Kazakhstan, Guyana, Senegal, Brazil, Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Union, the Caribbean Community and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

37. Also at the 4th meeting, the Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

38. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/107).

H. International Comparison Programme

39. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 1 March 2013. At its 4th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2013/9).

40. At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, China, Morocco, Mongolia and Italy, as well as by the observers for Samoa, Yemen, Bangladesh, the Republic of Korea, Georgia, Bahrain, the Bahamas, Slovenia, India, Afghanistan and Qatar.

42. Also at the 4th meeting, the representative of the International Monetary Fund made a statement.

43. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

44. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/108).

I. Gender statistics

45. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 27 and 28 February, and on 1 March 2013. At its 4th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2013/10) and heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division.

46. At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Dominican Republic and Cuba, as well as by the observers for Egypt, Argentina, Bangladesh, Sweden, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Uganda.

47. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the observers for Mexico, Yemen, Algeria, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Brazil.

48. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), as well as by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

49. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

50. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/109).

J. Crime statistics

51. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve crime statistics (E/CN.3/2013/11).

52. At the 5th meeting, on 28 February, the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime made introductory remarks.

53. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cameroon, Italy, Mongolia, Cuba, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Dominican Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as by the observers for Sweden, Ghana, the Philippines, Egypt, Ecuador, the Sudan, Turkey, Brazil, the Republic of Korea, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Peru, Poland, Qatar and Paraguay.

54. Also at the 5th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the European Union.

55. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

56. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/110).

K. Health statistics

57. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics (E/CN.3/2013/12).

58. At the 5th meeting, on 28 February, the representative of the World Health Organization made an introductory statement.

59. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Oman, Cameroon, Japan, the United States of America, Italy, Australia, Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as by the observers for Zambia, Samoa, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands, Turkey, the Philippines, Ghana, Brazil, Qatar and the Bahamas.

60. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and by the representatives of the European Union (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the United Nations Children's Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Bank.

61. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

62. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/111).

L. Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

63. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system (E/CN.3/2013/13) and heard an introductory statement by the representative of Mexico.

64. At the 5th meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America, and by the observers for South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudan and Paraguay.

65. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

66. Also at the 5th meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

67. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/112).

M. Regional statistical development in Africa

68. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. At its 5th meeting, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/CN.3/2013/14).

69. At the 5th meeting, on 28 February, the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa made an introductory statement.

70. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Niger and the United States of America, as well as by the observers for Sweden, Tunisia, South Africa and the Republic of Korea.

71. Also at the 5th meeting, further statements were made by the representatives of the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Europe.

72. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division, made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

73. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 44/113).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 (sub-items A to P) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013.

2. At the 5th and 6th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of Italy, Morocco, Japan, the Czech Republic and Mongolia, as well as by the observers for Turkmenistan, Angola, Senegal, New Zealand, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Afghanistan, the Philippines and Angola.

3. At the 6th meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the European Union (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Statistical Institute (on behalf of the World Statistics Congress, Hong Kong, China).

A. Demographic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2013/15).

5. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2013/15) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

B. Education statistics

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on education statistics (E/CN.3/2013/16).

7. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on education statistics (E/CN.3/2013/16) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

C. Employment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on labour and decent work statistics (E/CN.3/2013/17).

9. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International labour Organization on labour and decent work statistics (E/CN.3/2013/17) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

D. Business registers

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2013/18).

11. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2013/18) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

E. Service statistics

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/19).

13. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/19) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

F. Statistics for economies based on natural resources

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources (E/CN.3/2013/20).

15. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources (E/CN.3/2013/20) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

G. Development indicators

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretary-

General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2013/21).

17. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2013/21) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

H. Statistics of science and technology

Action taken by the Commission

18. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (E/CN.3/2013/22).

19. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (E/CN.3/2013/22) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

I. Informal sector statistics

Action taken by the Commission

20. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/23).

21. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/23) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

J. Statistical capacity-building

Action taken by the Commission

22. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2013/24) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2013/25).

23. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2013/24) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2013/25) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

K. Price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

24. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/26).

25. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2013/26) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

L. Integrated economic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

26. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2013/27).

27. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2013/27) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

M. International economic and social classifications

Action taken by the Commission

28. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international statistical classifications (E/CN.3/2013/28).

29. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on international statistical classifications (E/CN.3/2013/28), adopted the structures of the Central Product Classification, version 2.1, which it had before it and recommended that the classifications be recognized as the international standard for product classifications (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

N. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

30. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2013/29).

31. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2013/29) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

O. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

Action taken by the Commission

32. The Commission considered item 4 (o) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors (E/CN.3/2013/30).

33. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors (E/CN.3/2013/30) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116).

P. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Action taken by the Commission

34. The Commission considered item 4 (p) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2013/31) and a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 4 (p) of its agenda.

35. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2013/31) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/116) and adopted the draft decision contained in the paper submitted by the Rapporteur (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/114).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 1 March 2013. It had before it the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/CN.3/2013/CRP.1), and heard an oral report by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the oral report made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs. In particular, the Commission took note of the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/CN.3/2013/CRP.1) and approved the changes to the programme of work of the Division for 2012-2013, authorizing the Bureau to approve any further changes should they become necessary (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/115).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 1 March 2013. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division:

(a) Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2013/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2013-2016 (E/CN.3/2013/32).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives the United States of America, Italy and Australia, as well as by the observer for South Africa.

3. A statement was also made by the representative for the Economic Commission for Europe.

Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fifth session (E/CN.3/2013/L.2) and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B).

5. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its forty-fifth session be held from 4 to 7 March 2014 (see chap. I, sect. B).

6. Also at its 6th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2013-2016 (E/CN.3/2013/32).

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 1 March 2013.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session (E/CN.3/2013/L.3) and an informal paper containing a draft resolution and draft decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of Colombia, Italy, the United States of America, Australia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Dominican Republic, as well as by the observers for Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, France, the Bahamas, Mexico, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Uganda.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, further statements were made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its 44th session, including the draft resolution and draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Chair made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 February to 1 March 2013. The Commission held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 23 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance were observers for other States Member of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2013/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February 2013, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs:
Jill Matheson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Pablo Tactuk (Dominican Republic)
Jiantang Ma (China)

Rapporteur:
Joseph Tedou (Cameroon)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2013/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems;
   (b) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
   (c) National accounts;
   (d) Environmental-economic accounting;

(e) Environment statistics;

(f) International trade statistics;

(g) Agricultural statistics;

(h) International Comparison Programme;

(i) Gender statistics;

(j) Crime statistics;

(k) Health statistics;

(l) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system;

(m) Regional statistical development in Africa.

4. Items for information:

(a) Demographic statistics;

(b) Education statistics;

(c) Employment statistics;

(d) Business registers;

(e) Service statistics;

(f) Statistics for economies based on natural resources;

(g) Development indicators;

(h) Statistics of science and technology;

(i) Informal sector statistics;

(j) Statistical capacity-building;

(k) Price statistics;

(l) Integrated economic statistics;

(m) International economic and social classifications;

(n) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(o) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

(p) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2013/L.1).

6. Also at its 1st meeting, on 26 February, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its forty-fourth session: the Arab Institute

for Training and Research in Statistics; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Eurasian Economic Commission; the European Free Trade Association; the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne; the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

E. Documentation

7. The 44th session of the Statistical Commission was conducted in accordance with the PaperSmart initiative. Hard copies of the documents considered by the Commission were not distributed in the conference room, with the exception of documents that were adopted by the Commission. All other documentation before the Commission was available for participants to download electronically through the PaperSmart portal.

8. The documents of the session are also available from the website of the United Nations Statistics Division, http://unstats.un.org/ unsd/statcom/sc2013.htm.

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